

Amendment
March 16, 2006

FIS920030226US1
Serial No.: 10/707,075

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 22 remain in the application. Claims 11 – 22 are allowed. Claim 8 is canceled. Claims 23 – 28 are canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 1 – 10 are rejected. Claims 1 and 9 – 11 are amended herein. No new matter is added.

The specification is amended for grammar. No new matter has been added.

Withdrawn claims 23 – 28 were directed to a non-elected invention and so, are canceled herein without prejudice.

Allowed claim 11 is objected to for lack of antecedent basis for “said semiconductor substrate.” Responsive thereto, allowed claim 11 is amended herein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to allowed claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,448,171 to Wang et al. Claims 4 – 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wang et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,960,828 to Nair et al., published U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0099877 to Towle, or U.S. Patent No. 6,566,736 to Ogawa et al. Claim 8 is canceled herein and claim 1 is amended to include the recitations of canceled claim 8. So, amended claim 1 is canceled claim 8 rewritten in independent form.

Regarding claim 8, it is asserted that “Fig. 2 of Towle shows a semiconductor device wherein each pad includes an electrical connection to an underlying strap [22] which extends horizontally from said electrical connection to a chip side wall.” However, it is clear from Figure 1 of Towle that the right side of Figure 2 is not a sidewall but a section of the chip. Thus, the Towle chip sidewall includes cracks 28, while the straps 22 extend horizontally into the chip, in board of guard ring 16 ringing the circumference of the chip 10. Therefore, Towle in combination with Wang et al. does not result in the present invention as recited in claim 8 as filed. Furthermore, no reference of record teaches or suggests an electroplated pad including “an electrical connection to an underlying strap... extending horizontally ... to a chip side wall” as described in the

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present application or, as claimed in claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is allowable over all references of record.

Additionally, since dependent claims include all of the differences with the cited references as the claims from which they depend, claims 2 – 7, 9 and 10, which depend from amended claim 1, are allowable over all references of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) is respectfully requested.

The applicants thank the Examiner for efforts, both past and present, in examining the application. Believing the application to be in condition for allowance, both for the amendment to the claims and for the reasons set forth above, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to allowed claim 11, reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 – 7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) and allow the application to issue.

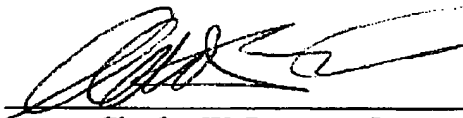
Should the Examiner believe anything further may be required, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below for a telephonic or personal interview to discuss any other changes.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0458 and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully Submitted,

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(Date)

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